**Job Description**

**Development and Funding Officer (Treescapes)**

Temporary – 24 months

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| **Service:** | Planning and Environment | **Team:** | Nature Recovery | |
| **Location:** | County Hall, Preston | | | |
| **Salary range:** | £32,020 - £36,298 | **Grade:** | | 8 |
| **Reports to:** | Principal Nature Recovery Officer | **Staff responsible for:** | | None |

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| **Job Purpose** |
| Lancashire County Council, Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool councils have all identified tree and woodland planting as a key part of their responses to the climate change and biodiversity crises. We have jointly made a commitment to DEFRA and Forestry Commission that 170 hectares of rural woodland planting and 30,000 urban and peri-urban trees will be planted in Greater Lancashire by 2025.  The Development Officers will be instrumental in the delivery of the Lancashire Treescapes Programme which will develop and design tree and woodland planting proposals, consult widely, apply for capital grants and organise planting in both the rural and urban environment. The posts are funded by DEFRA and the Forestry Commission under the Woodland Creation Accelerator Fund and will be hosted by Lancashire County Council.  The Development Officers will work with existing staff in the three authorities and also other stakeholders such as the Rivers Trusts, Groundwork Trust, district councils, Woodland Trust, Forestry Commission and Wildlife Trust in delivery and implementation of the woodland creation and tree planting ambitions for Greater Lancashire.  They will have responsibility for the assembly of sites into programmes of tree planting and woodland creation and identify, acquire and manage external funding streams to meet the tree planting targets for Greater Lancashire by 2025 and beyond.  They will engage with a range of stakeholders to develop, commission and implement woodland and tree planting programmes which deliver the objectives of the environmental and climate policies of the three councils. This should seek to complement and closely assist key stakeholders with existing well-developed and progressed tree-planting programmes, such as the Ribble Rivers Trust and Groundwork Trust.  The Development Officers will be supported by two Community Engagement Officers and will be overseen by to the Senior Woodland Officer within the Environment and Climate Team, where you will work alongside other specialists in ecology and climate change. The team has well developed links with the 14 district and unitary councils of Lancashire, as well as voluntary sector environmental and community bodies which operate within our region.  This is a challenging yet exciting role, requiring the post holder to multi-task and often to work to deadlines or set budgets. It requires team working and partnership development by a highly motivated self-starter who is also able to work alone and to a high standard of detail and precision.  The post will be based in County Hall, Preston. However, Lancashire County Council operates a flexible working policy where the requirements of the role permit it. |
| **Accountabilities/Responsibilities** |
| The postholders will have responsibility for the assembly of sites into programmes of urban tree planting and woodland creation and identify, acquire and manage external funding streams to meet the tree planting targets for Greater Lancashire by 2025 and beyond.  1. Programme delivery   * Assist in preparing Treescapes Action Plan. * Site assembly, to include close working with stakeholders, landowners and councils to identify urban and peri-urban sites. * Co-ordinate and/or deliver site survey work and assessments. * Produce high-quality scheme designs and prepare and submit bids for grants (Forestry Commission EWCO, LATF, UTCF schemes) and other income sources. * Project manage the planting of sites and provide technical support to other partners involved in their own projects. * Report against targets. * Develop income streams to maintain the partnership post 2024/25. * Work with other project partners to adopt inclusive community engagement activity or practices.   2. Supporting engagement and partnership development   * Build networks, relationships, outreach with stakeholders, landowners and communities to unlock land opportunities and buy-in from the public. * Promote the Treescapes programme as a resource for landowners and managers. * Advise on, identify and deliver opportunities for wider community and volunteer engagement * Proactively foster and manage partnerships with statutory bodies, landowners, farmers, local communities and interest groups in order to maximise support and funding for the delivery of the Lancashire Treescapes programme. |
| **Other** |
| * **Equal Opportunities**   We are committed to achieving equal opportunities in the way we deliver services to the community and in our employment arrangements. We expect all employees to understand and promote this policy in their work.   * **Health and safety**   All employees have a responsibility for their own health and safety and that of others when carrying out their duties and must help us to apply our general statement of health and safety policy.   * **Customer Focused**   We put our customers' needs and expectations at the heart of all that we do. We expect our employees to have a full understanding of those needs and expectations so that we can provide high quality, appropriate services at all times. |
| **Our Values** |
| **We expect all our employees to demonstrate and promote our values:**   * **Supportive**   We are supportive of our customers and colleagues, recognising their contributions and making the best of their strengths to enable our communities to flourish.   * **Innovative**   We deliver the best services we possibly can, always looking for creative ways to do things better, putting the customer at the heart of our thinking, and being ambitious and focused on how we can deliver the best services now and in the future.   * **Respectful**   We treat colleagues, customers and partners with respect, listening to their views, empathising and valuing their diverse needs and perspectives, to be fair, open and honest in all that we do.   * **Collaborative**   We listen to, engage with, learn from and work with colleagues, partners and customers to help achieve the best outcomes for everyone. |

**Person Specification**

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All the following requirements are essential unless otherwise indicated by \*

Your ability to meet the job requirements will initially be assessed by the information provided on your application but further assessment will be undertaken at interview and, in some cases, by using other types of assessment(s).

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| **Qualifications** |
| * Vocational qualification with broad experience within specialism.   OR   * Degree qualified (or equivalent) in relevant subject plus 3 years experience in a similar role.   OR   * Formal professional qualification within specialism. |
| **Experience** |
| * Proven experience of securing funding for tree planting and woodland creation * Significant experience of project management, including budget and resource management * Experience of working with landowners, land managers and farmers on rural projects, and/or working with local authorities, ecologists, highway asset managers and engineers on urban and peri-urban projects. * Proven experience of producing high quality action plans, reports and budgets. * Experience of working with a range of stakeholders, carrying out community consultations and conducting negotiations * Experience of supervising consultants/contractors and directing work. * Experience of contract management for land-based projects. \* * Practical experience of site assessment and survey. \* |
| **Essential knowledge, skills & abilities** |
| * Current knowledge of relevant grant schemes and funding sources * Technical knowledge of silvicultural and arboricultural practice specifically related to woodland creation, urban tree planting and aftercare. * Knowledge of the barriers to woodland creation and urban tree planting * Silvicultural and/or arboricultural field skill. \* * Understanding of community engagement and awareness-raising activities. \* * Strong motivation, drive, initiative and creativity * Excellent communication and interpersonal skills * Strong sense of accountability and professionalism * Good project development skills and ability prioritise and meet targets on time * Good ICT skills, including confident use of mapping technologies * Current UK driving licence. |
| **Other essential requirements** |
| * Commitment to equality and diversity. |
| * Commitment to health and safety. |
| * Display the LCC values and behaviours at all times and actively promote them in others. |
| ***[To be included if the post is an essential car user post – delete if this requirement does not apply]***   * This is an essential car user post   *You will be required to provide a car for use in connection with the duties of this post and must be insured for business use*. *In certain circumstances consideration may be given to applicants who, as a consequence of a disability, are unable to drive* |